

Application No. 09/647,899

plastic security member can be removed and the threaded spindle can escape into the space which becomes available.

43. The drive according to claim 4, wherein each of the two pairs has two housing plates that are identical in design.

REMARKS

In response to the Office action of January 25, 2002, applicant hereby elects Claim Group I, namely, claims 1-26 and 43, drawn to a drive mechanism with traverse.

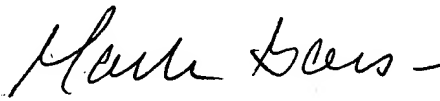
Claim 27 has been amended to include the special technical features of claim 1. Accordingly, Group I (claims 1-26 and 43) and Group II (claims 27-33) relate to a single general inventive concept and applicants' respectfully submit that restriction is not required as to Group I and Group II.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with markings to show changes made

27. (Three Times Amended) A method for assembling a gear housing for a drive for adjusting devices in motor vehicles comprising:

a) providing one of a fixed spindle and a fixed toothed rack fixed on one of two relatively displaceable parts;

a gear assembly mounted on the other of the two relatively displaceable parts; and

a gear housing holding the gear assembly, with the gear housing having at least two housing plates which can be fixed against each other by plug-type connectors;

wherein the plug-type connectors fix the position of the at least two housing plates relative to each other in all three-dimensional directions and thereby form supporting connecting joints which absorb the gear forces;

[a)] b) prefitting gear elements of the gear assembly and the housing plates by fitting the housing plates together with the plug-type connections to form [a] the gear housing with supporting connecting joints that absorb gear forces;

[b)] c) inserting the gear elements and the housing plates into a device which holds the housing plates with sufficiently light holding forces around the outer contour so that the housing plates can be aligned when the gear elements are turned,

[c)] d) turning the gear elements for the purpose of aligning bearing points of the gear elements which are provided on the housing plates; and

[d)] e) after alignment, securing the position of the gear elements and housing plates relative to each other by increasing the holding forces and permanently fixing the position of the housing plates in all three-dimensional directions through action on the plug-type connectors.